

Hear our prayers, O Lord, those we pray personally as well as for others. Forbid that we should live for ourselves this day, but may we be faithful in our service to Your people, even as we serve You.

In Your most Holy name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BUSTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate progress in America's pledge to provide liberty and justice for all Americans.

Today, President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law. The legislation ensures equal rights and protection for married couples regardless of the color of their skin, where they live, or whom they love.

This act is long overdue and necessary as threats remain to undo the hard-fought ruling giving same-sex couples the fundamental right to marriage equality.

I am honored to have cosponsored this bill, and I am proud this day has finally come.

PROTECT MEDICARE

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that will affect millions of Americans unless Congress acts.

Unless we prevent the Medicare reimbursement cut that is scheduled to go into effect, the doctors, hospitals, and

healthcare providers who work each day to treat Medicare patients may be forced to eliminate services, furlough staff, and delay health initiatives.

These cuts will have the deepest impact on those patients who rely on Medicare to see their doctors.

At a time when our healthcare industry is already facing record burnout, we cannot afford to risk losing more doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in fighting these potential cuts in order to protect American patients who rely on Medicare each and every day.

THANKING THE TEAM BUSTOS STAFF

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Team Bustos. Every Member of Congress knows that the real work is done by staff.

Those with me from day one are: Lucie VanHecke, Miranda French, Ellie LaBotte, and Katie Papa.

Our dedicated and determined district team include: Laura Rude, Dennis Littlejohn, Austin Stadelman, and Coburn Gillies.

The legislative team that makes our accomplishments possible are: Elaine Ansah, Noah Emanuel, Jon Heppen, Yusuf Nekzad, and Leighton Huch.

The communications team that makes sure everyone back home knows we are working for them are: Katie Anderson, Philip Shelly, and Heather Sager.

The person who keeps the train on its tracks is Mitchell Dunn.

My chief of staff who has helped me complete 10 years of service is Trevor Reuschel.

Because of each of them and those who have served on Team Bustos over the years, peoples' lives are better, and Illinois is stronger. It has been my honor to serve with them.

IRREVERSIBLE PROCEDURES ON VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, from the beginning, our Nation's founding was based upon the idea of defending our borders and defending our people within it.

Yet, in a complete 180 from the original purpose, our top government officials want our tax dollars to fund irreversible gender reassignment surgery for children.

Chemical castrations, mastectomies, and hysterectomies for sex reassignment on minors are life-altering decisions that are permanent and should not be taken lightly. Moreover, the

government has no business paying for them with our tax dollars. It is not only irresponsible but also flat-out dangerous and encourages irreversible and sterilizing procedures on young people.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of young people who experience gender dysphoria move on from that when they become adults.

Some doctors and teachers—sometimes even parents—pressure vulnerable children into these invasive surgeries to keep in line with their woke agenda. Adults have no business forcing these decisions upon young people or making them themselves. Indeed, we have run legislation here saying that this should not be a discussion for minors, they must be at least 18 years old if they want to go through these procedures.

It is unacceptable the way adults, media, and government are putting children entrusted in their care in these situations directly in harm's way with irreversible, life-changing, and even suicide-inducing decisions.

FIGHTING CHORDOMA

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Joshua Smith, who was recently diagnosed with a rare form of cancer known as chordoma.

Classified as a rare cancer of the spine and skull, chordoma is diagnosed in thousands of people worldwide every year, about 300 of whom live in the United States.

In honor of Josh and others diagnosed every year, I introduced a resolution last week to help shine a light on the need for more research and awareness of this kind of cancer which is very rare.

Thankfully, Josh is recovering and back at work, but his illness serves as an important reminder of the need to bolster research and funding to combat cancers of all kinds. Fighting cancers, particularly rare forms like chordoma, can and should bring us together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues for their support for this resolution.

GREATER COMPETITION WITHIN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on December 8 the House passed the JAMES M. INHOFE National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023 on a bipartisan basis.

I am particularly proud to see that my amendment, the Defense Maintenance Data Transparency Act, was included in this crucial package.

The challenges facing the Department of Defense's inability to access